ALIENS BERSERKER 3 OF 4

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ALIENS™ BERSERKER

WAGNER • MENDOZA • MUSHYNSKY

ALIENS™ BERSERKER

[BOOK THREE]

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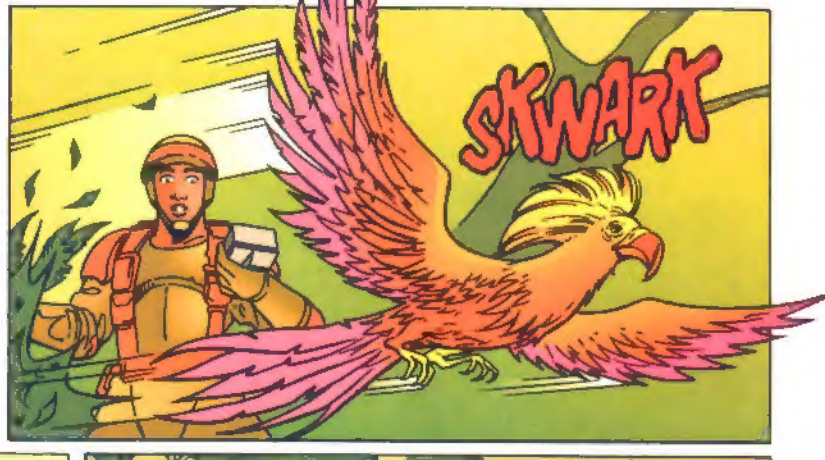
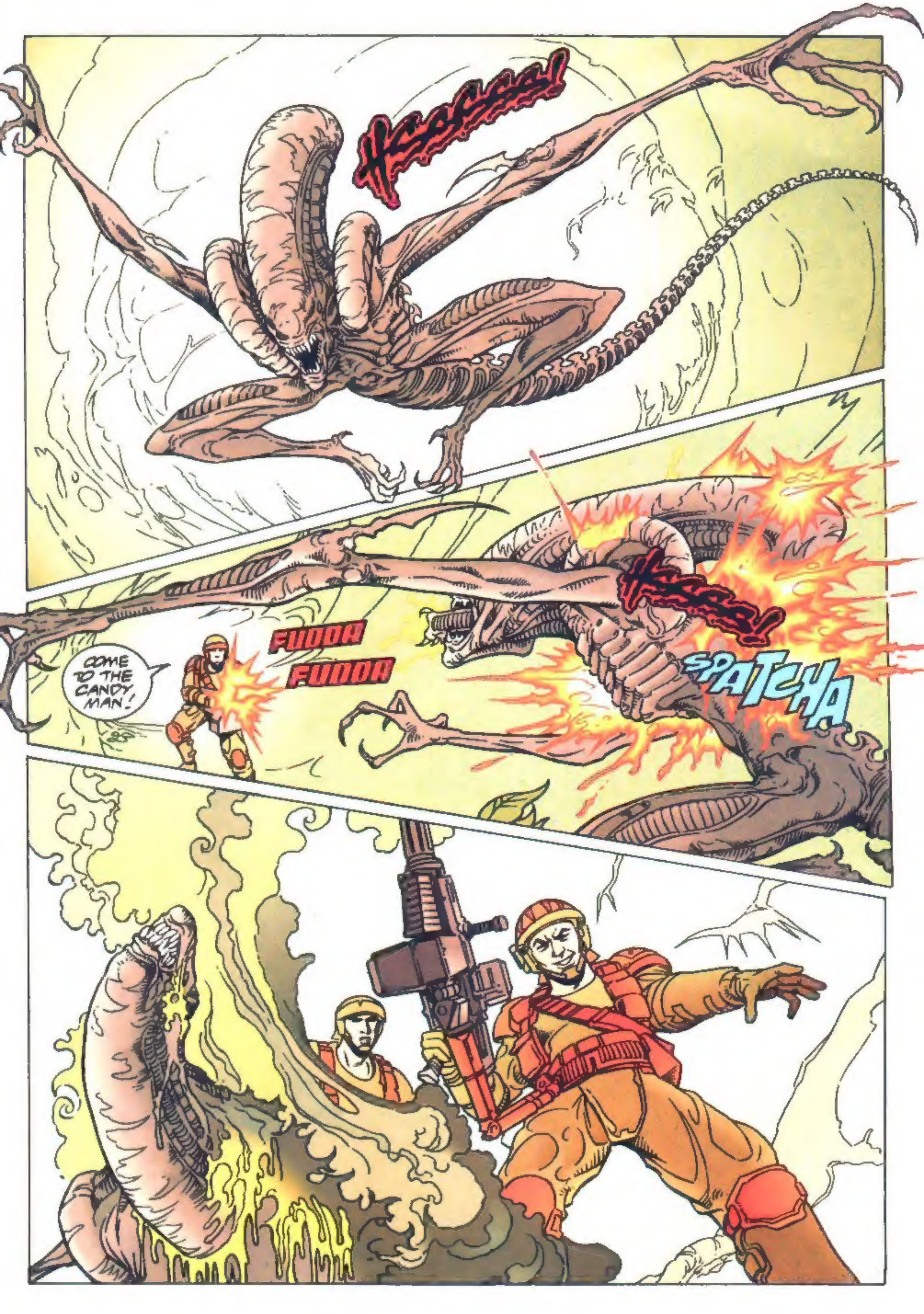
BIP

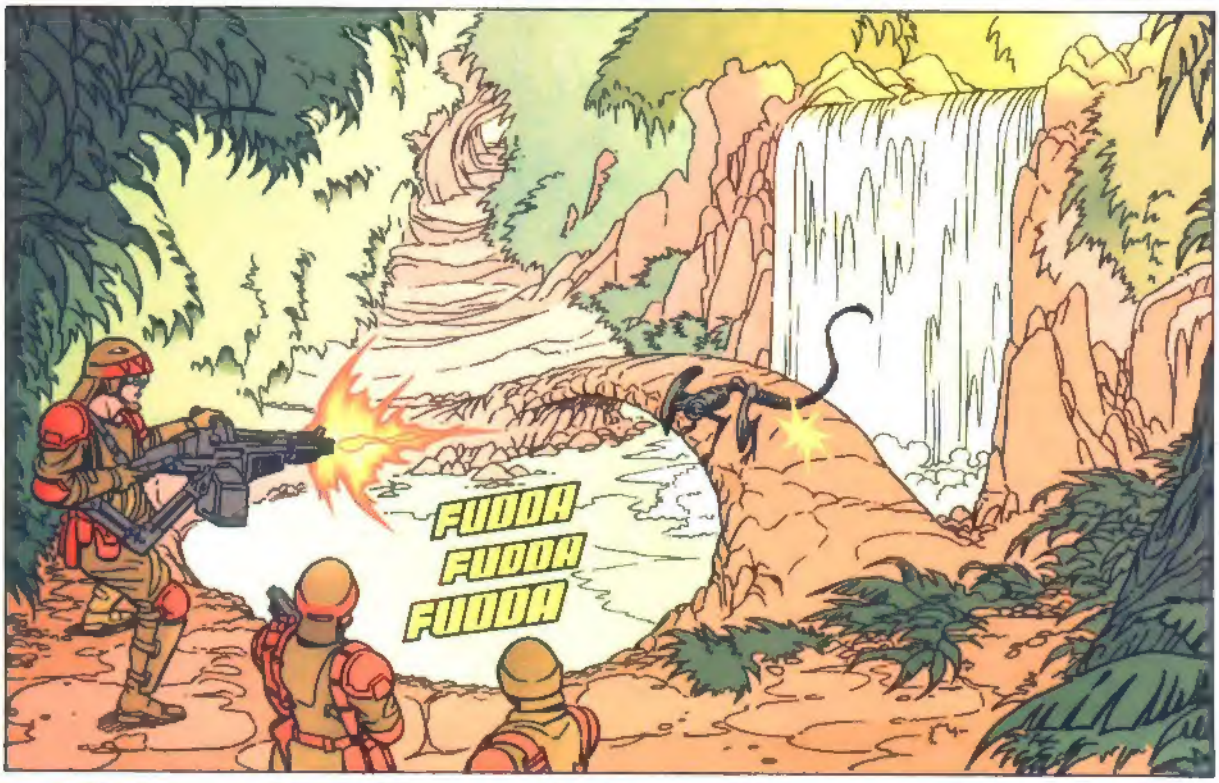

SKWARK

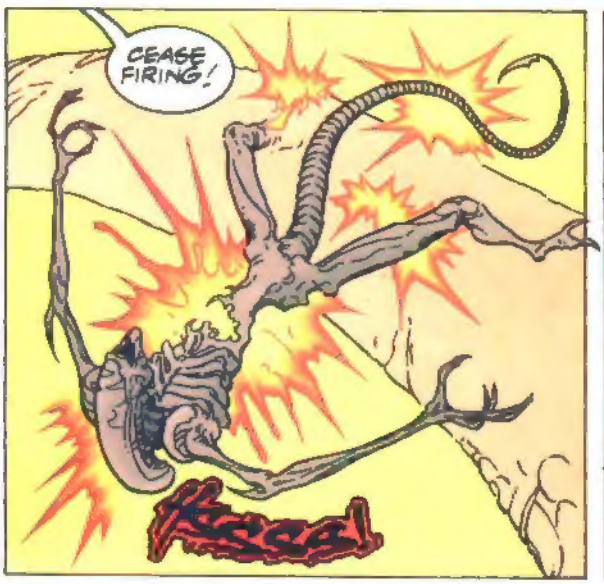
JESS! COMING YOUR WAY FAST! RANGE 030 AND CLOSING!
-030

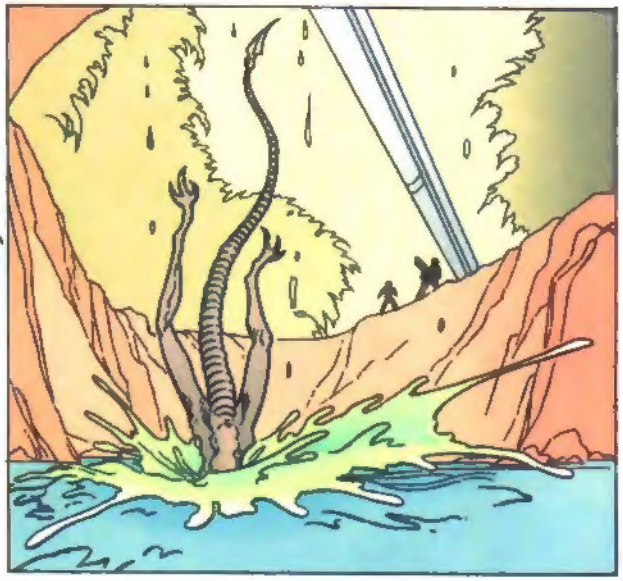
EYES RIGHT!
C'MON, SWEET BABY--!

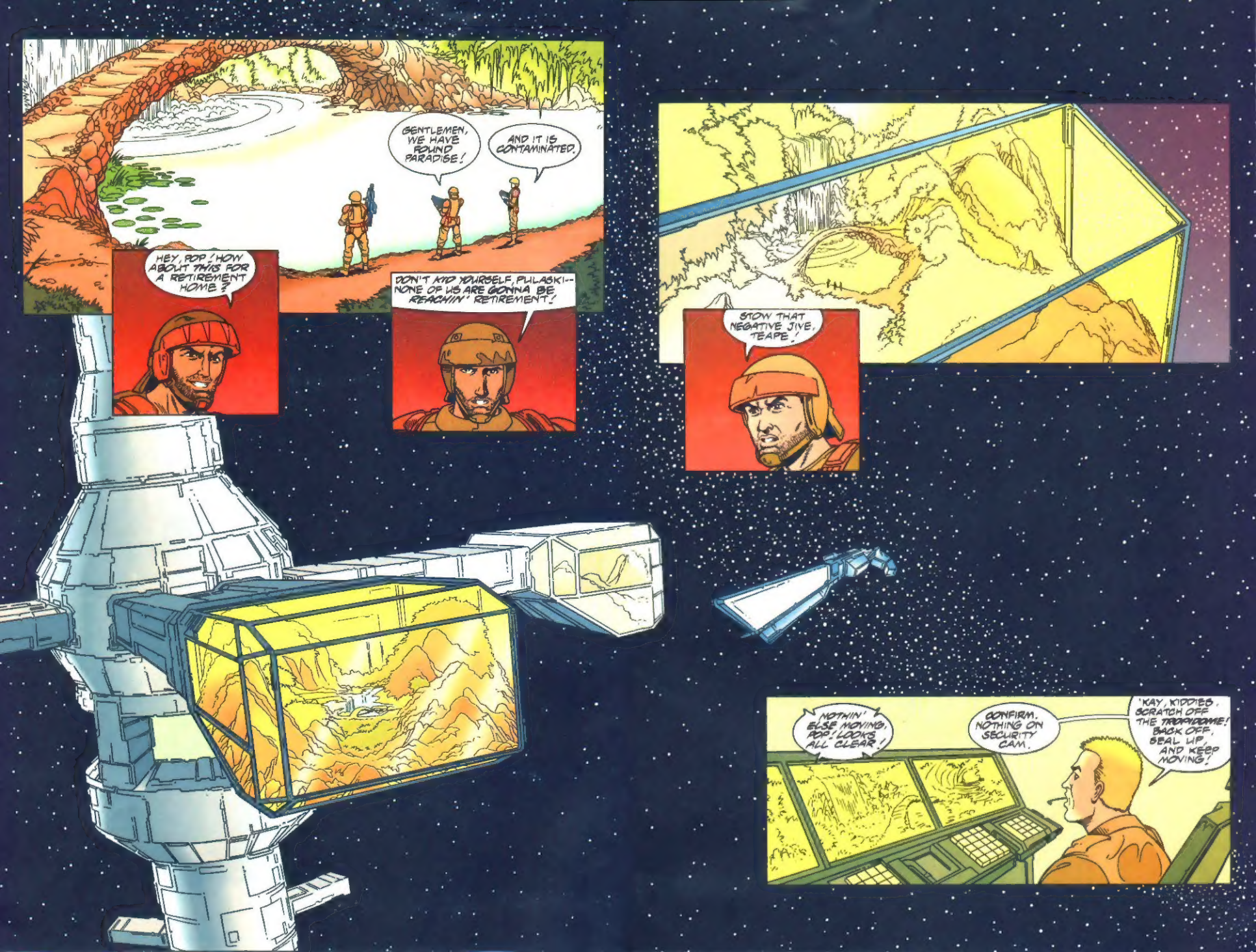

COME TO THE CANDY MAN!
FUDDA
FUDDA
SPATCHA

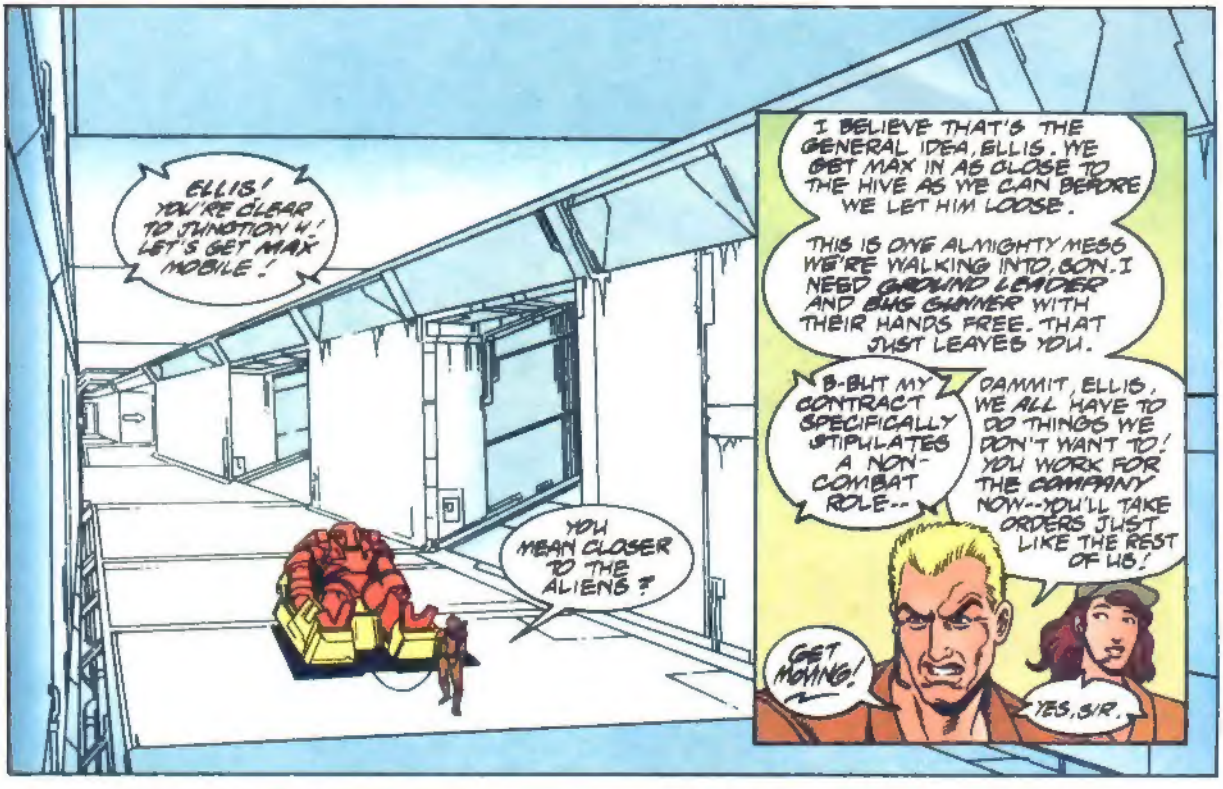
JESS! THERE'S ONE ON THE BRIDGE, FAR SIDE OF THE ROCKPOOL!
NORTH
07
POINT


FUDDA
FUDDA
FUDDA


CEASE FIRING!
Fzzzzt




GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE FOUND PARADISE!
AND IT IS CONTAMINATED.
HEY, POP! HOW ABOUT THIS FOR A RETIREMENT HOME?
DON'T KID YOURSELF, PULASKI-- NONE OF US ARE GONNA BE REACHIN' RETIREMENT!
STOW THAT NEGATIVE JIVE, TEAPE!
NOTHIN' ELSE MOVING, POP! LOOKS ALL CLEAR!
CONFIRM. NOTHING ON SECURITY CAM.
'KAY, KIDDIES. SCRATCH OFF THE TROPYDOME! BACK OFF, SEAL UP, AND KEEP MOVING!


ELLIS! YOU'RE CLEAR TO JUNCTION K! LET'S GET MAX MOBILE!
YOU MEAN CLOSER TO THE ALIENS?
I BELIEVE THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA, ELLIS. WE GET MAX IN AS CLOSE TO THE HIVE AS WE CAN BEFORE WE LET HIM LOOSE.
THIS IS ONE ALMIGHTY MESS WE'RE WALKING INTO, SON. I NEED GROUND LEADER AND BUG GUNNER WITH THEIR HANDS FREE. THAT JUST LEAVES YOU.
B-BUT MY CONTRACT SPECIFICALLY STIPULATES A NON-COMBAT ROLE--
DAMMIT, ELLIS, WE ALL HAVE TO DO THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO! YOU WORK FOR THE COMPANY NOW--YOU'LL TAKE ORDERS JUST LIKE THE REST OF US!
GET MOVING!
YES, SIR.

DON'T WORRY, ELLIS-- WON'T BE NO BUGS LEFT TA BITE YOU AFTER WE'VE BEEN THROUGH!
BLIND SPOT AHEAD ON YOUR RIGHT. WATCH IT!
HIP
HIP
HIP

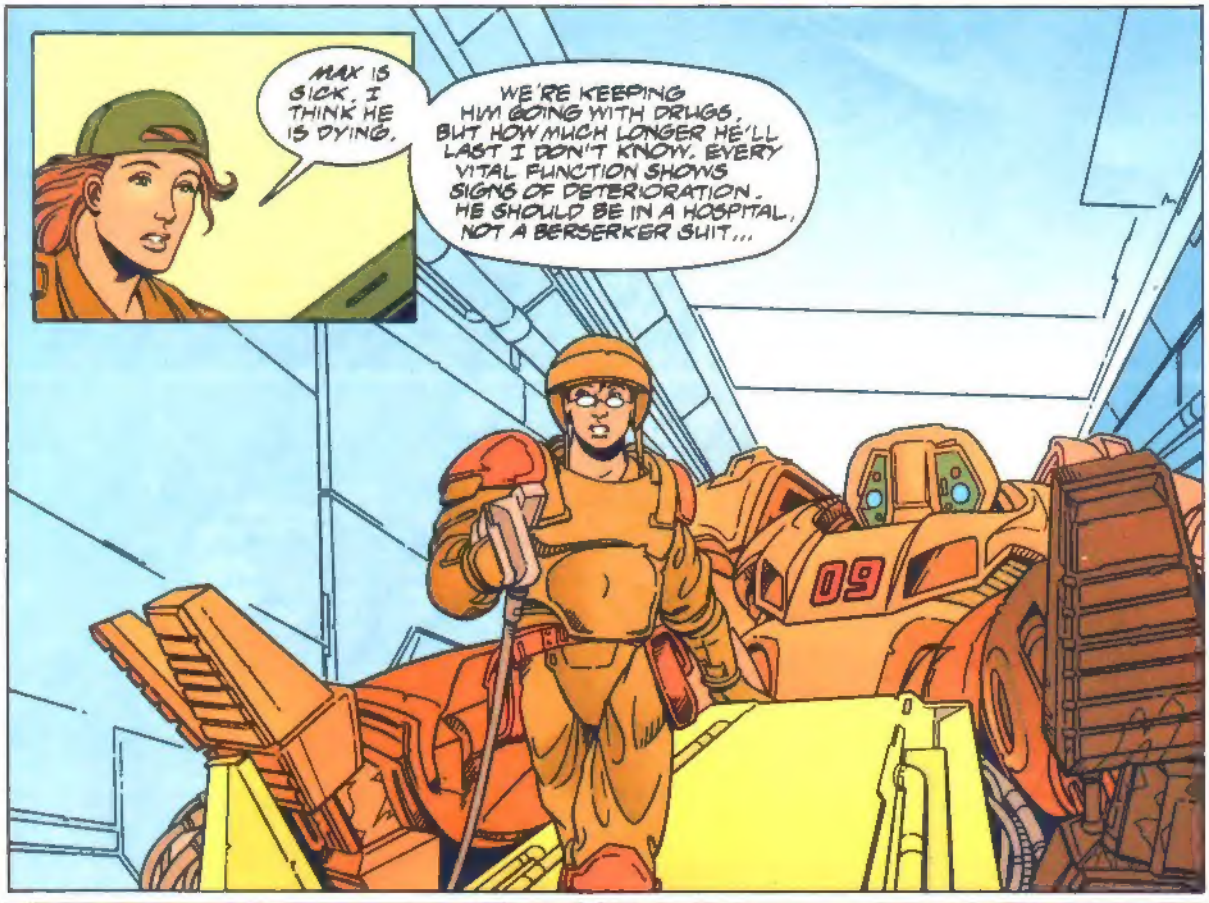
YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOT IT, PULASKI! THIS IS THE END! FINITO!
NO WAY WE COME OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
FUDDA
FUDDA
FUDDA

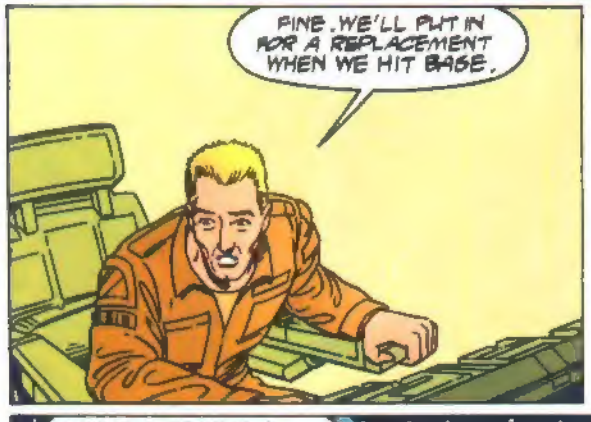
I SAID CAN THAT TALK! STICK TOGETHER AN' WE CAN MAKE THIS!
TELL THAT TO THESE POOR SUCKERS!

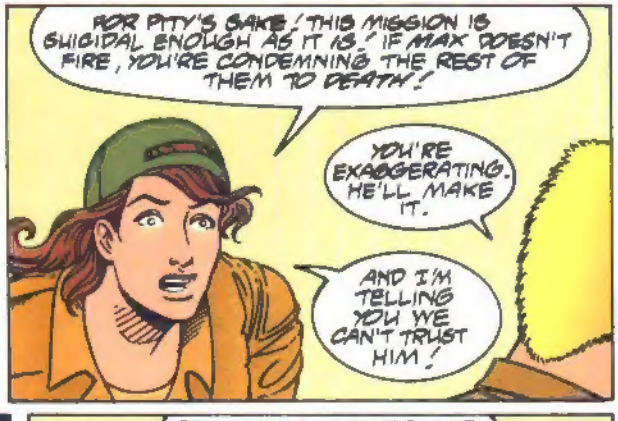
I'M... I'M CONCERNED ABOUT BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL-- THERE'S EVIDENCE OF PANCREATIC DETERIORATION. IF IT RISES AGAIN, I'LL HAVE TO ADMINISTER INSULIN.

ALL RIGHT, STAY ON IT. AND ELLIS—STAY CALM. SOON AS MAX FIRES WE'LL PULL YOU OUT OF THERE.

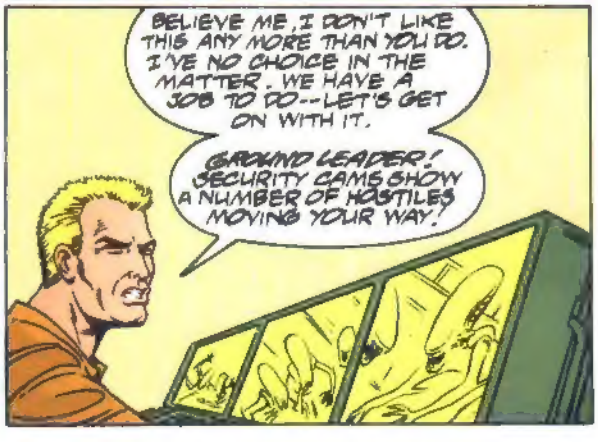
THANKS, LARA.

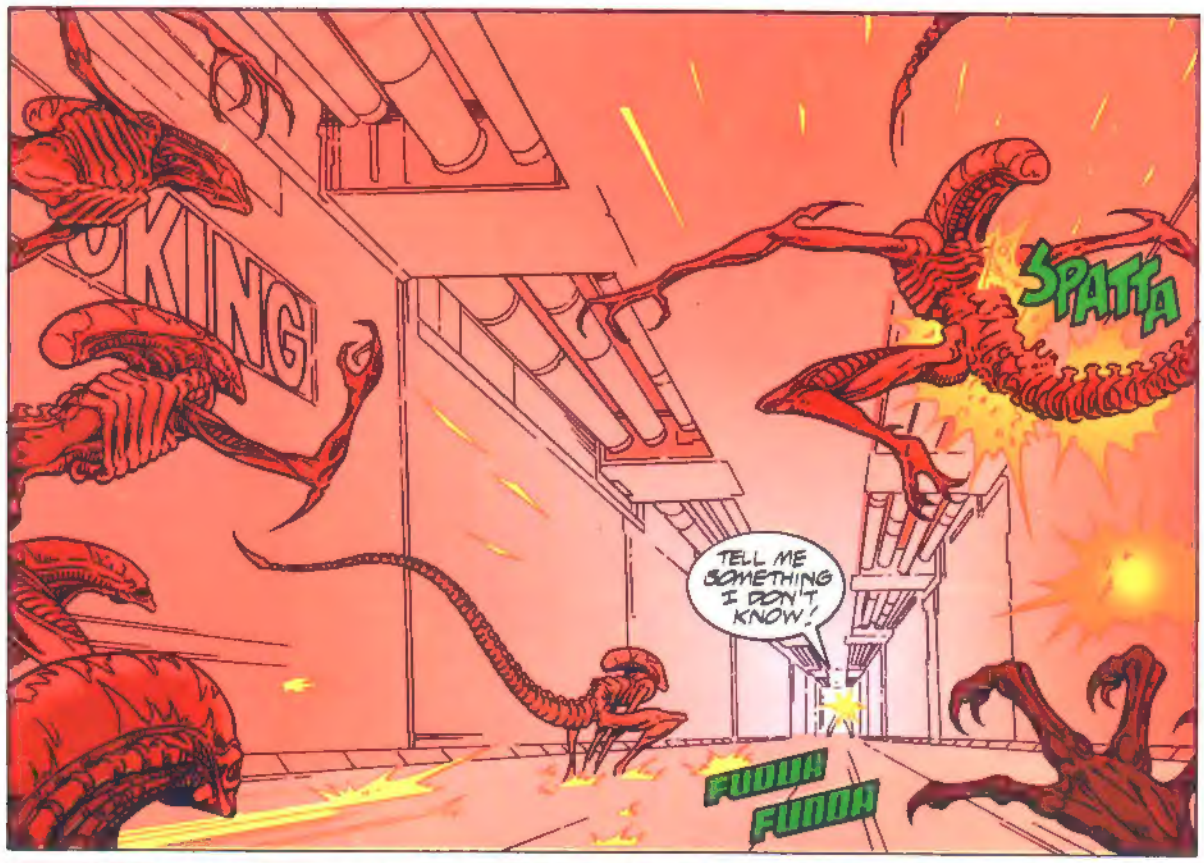

MAX IS SICK. I THINK HE IS DYING.
WE'RE KEEPING HIM GOING WITH DRUGS, BUT HOW MUCH LONGER HE'LL LAST I DON'T KNOW. EVERY VITAL FUNCTION SHOWS SIGNS OF DETERIORATION. HE SHOULD BE IN A HOSPITAL, NOT A BERSERKER SUIT...
09

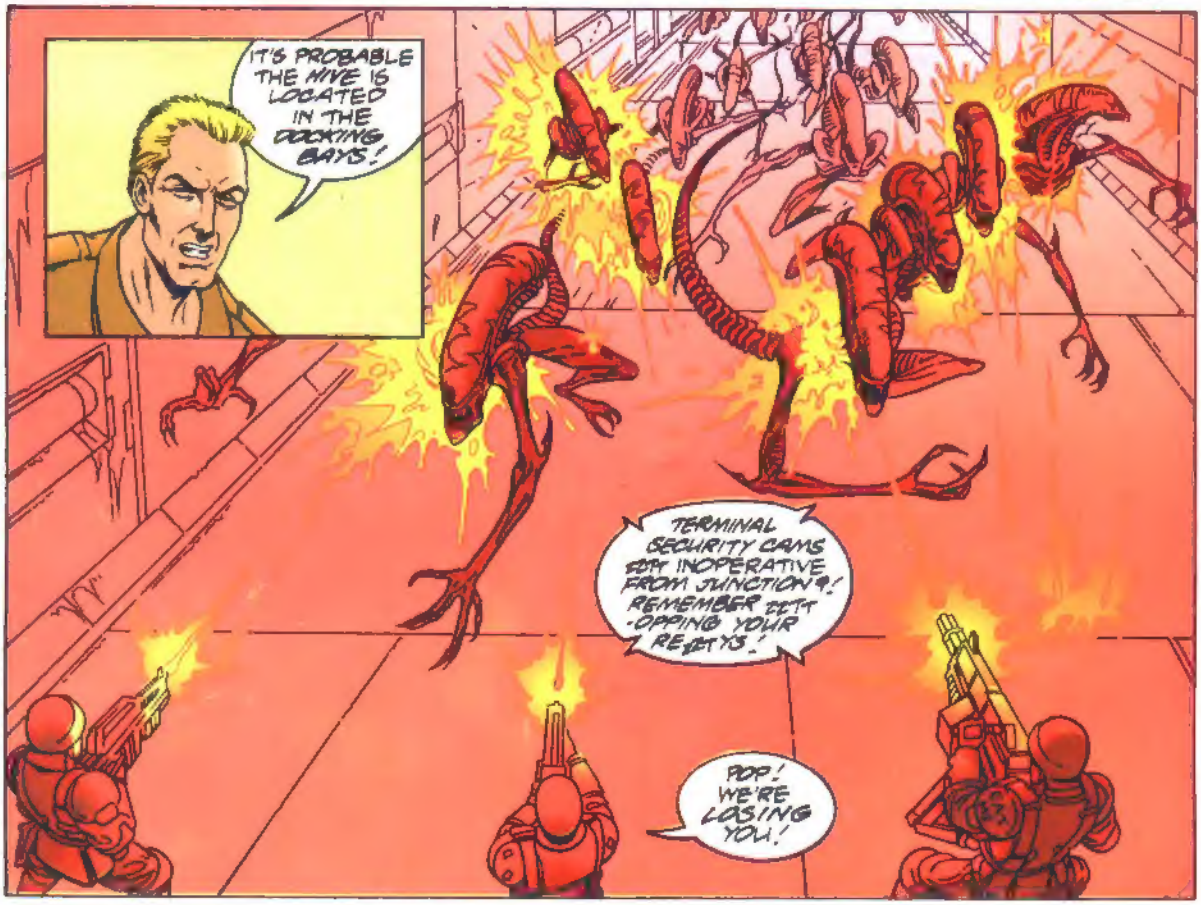

FINE. WE'LL PUT IN FOR A REPLACEMENT WHEN WE HIT BASE.


FOR PITY'S SAKE! THIS MISSION IS SUICIDAL ENOUGH AS IT IS! IF MAX DOESN'T FIRE, YOU'RE CONDEMNING THE REST OF THEM TO DEATH!
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING. HE'LL MAKE IT.
AND I'M TELLING YOU WE CAN'T TRUST HIM!

THIS IS MADNESS! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT TERMINAL 94? THE COMPANY'S PREPARED TO RISK ALL OUR LIVES FOR?
WHY CAN'T WE WAIT FOR BACK-UP? WHAT IS IT THEY DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT?
I... I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.

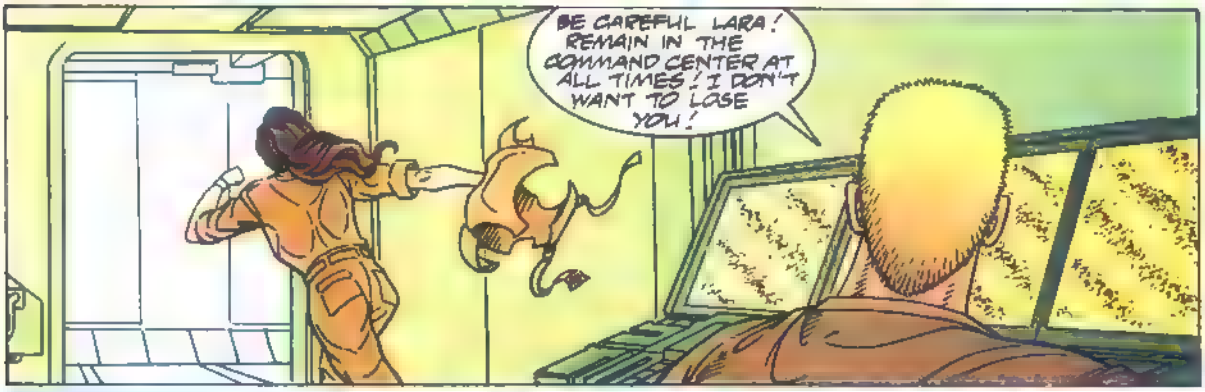

BELIEVE ME, I DON'T LIKE THIS ANY MORE THAN YOU DO. I'VE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO--LET'S GET ON WITH IT.
GROUND LEADER! SECURITY CAMS SHOW A NUMBER OF HOSTILES MOVING YOUR WAY!


KING
SPATTA
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
FUDUH
FUDDA

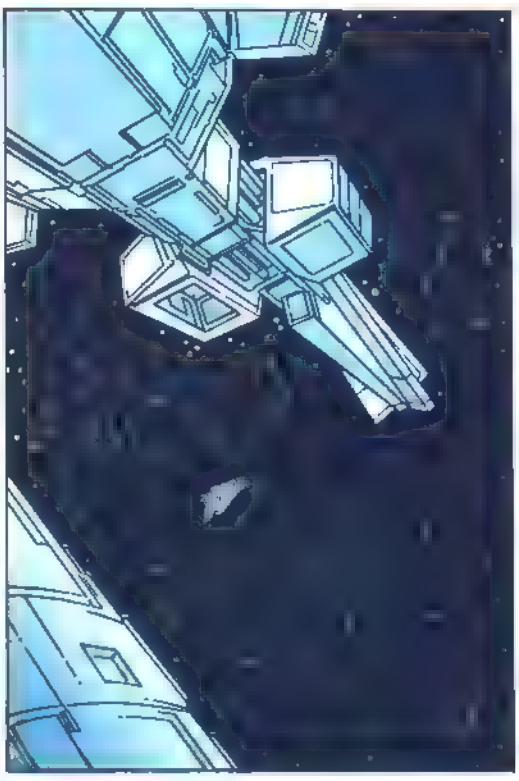

IT'S PROBABLE THE HIVE IS LOCATED IN THE DOCKING BAYS!
TERMINAL SECURITY CAMS ARE INOPERATIVE FROM JUNCTION 9! REMEMBER TO STOP YOUR REPORTS!
POP! WE'RE LOSING YOU!

PICTURE'S CUTTING OUT!
GROUND LEADER, DO YOU RECEIVE ME?
ELLIS! WE HAVE LOST YOU ON VISUAL! RESPOND! REPEAT-- RESPOND!

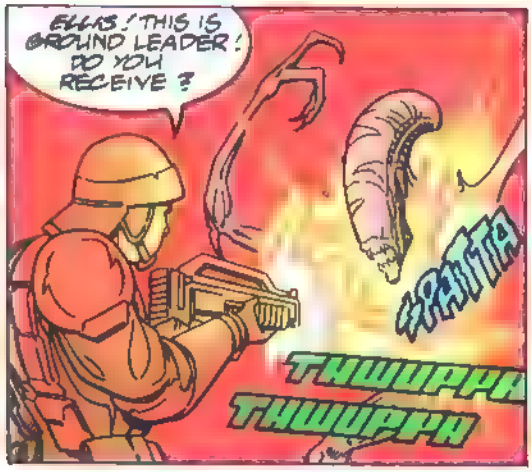
IT'S GONE DEAD--!
THE WHOLE SYSTEM'S DOWN! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE PRIMARY RELAY!
I HAVE TO GO ABOARD! RECALL THE SHUTTLE!

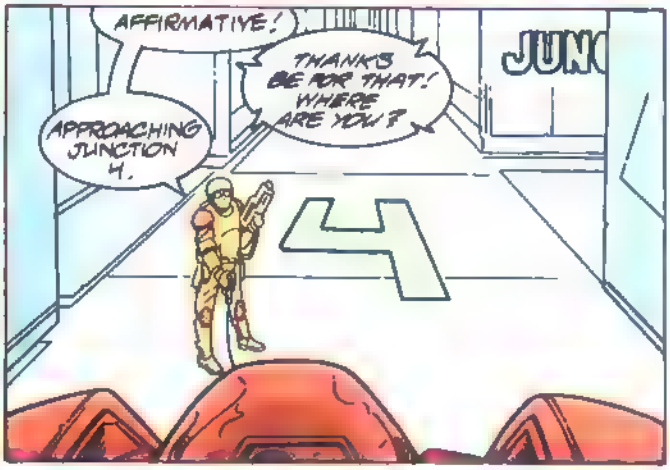

BE CAREFUL LARA! REMAIN IN THE COMMAND CENTER AT ALL TIMES! I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!

TEAM LEADER TO ALL UNITS! WE HAVE A COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN. IF YOU ARE RECEIVING ME, MAINTAIN PRESENT POSITION! COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER IS COMING ABOARD!
SHUTTLE



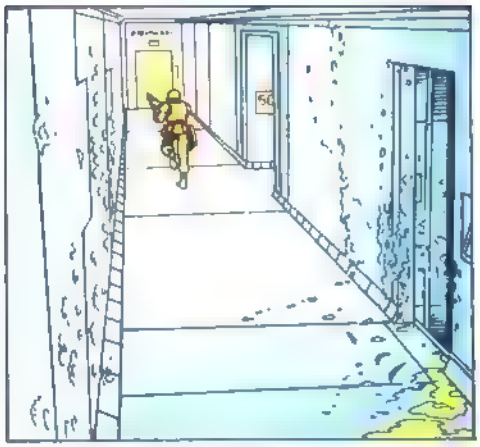
SPATTA
THWUPPA
THWUPPA
FUDDA
FUDDA
LINE TO NEMESIS IS DEAD! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!

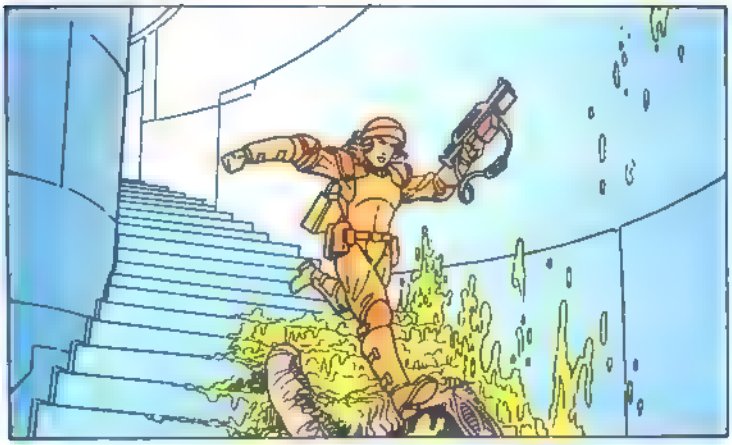

ELLAS! THIS IS GROUND LEADER! DO YOU RECEIVE?
SPATTA
THWUPPA
THWUPPA

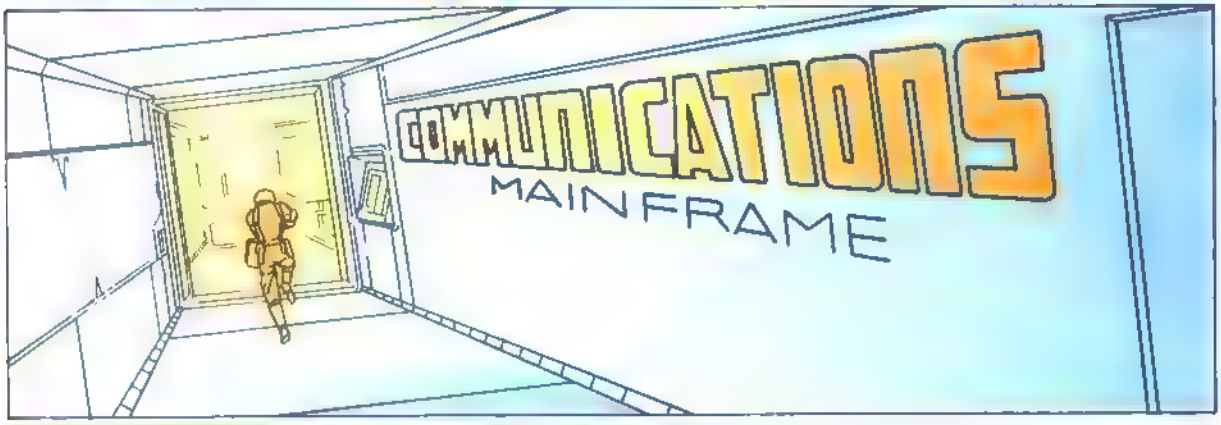

AFFIRMATIVE!
THANKS BE FOR THAT! WHERE ARE YOU?
APPROACHING JUNCTION 4.
JUNC
4

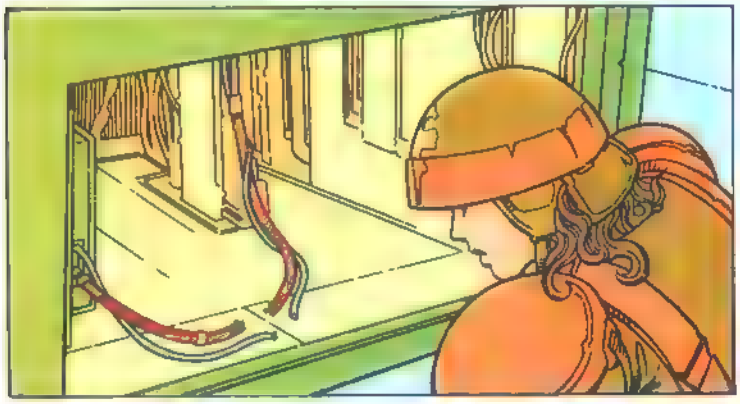
WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH NEMESIS! SIT TIGHT, BOY! WE LOSE MAK, OUR BUTTS ARE GOOD AND TRULY ON THE SPIT!

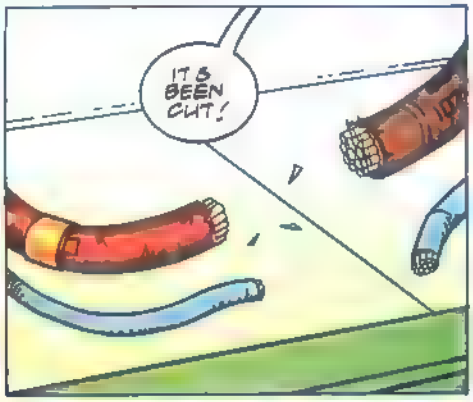
14

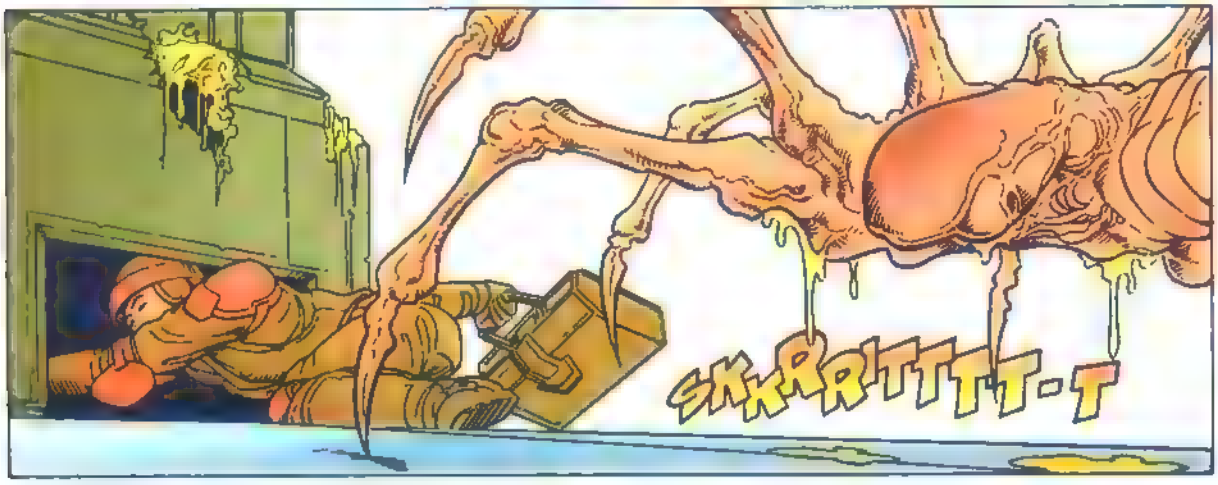





COMMUNICATIONS
MAINFRAME

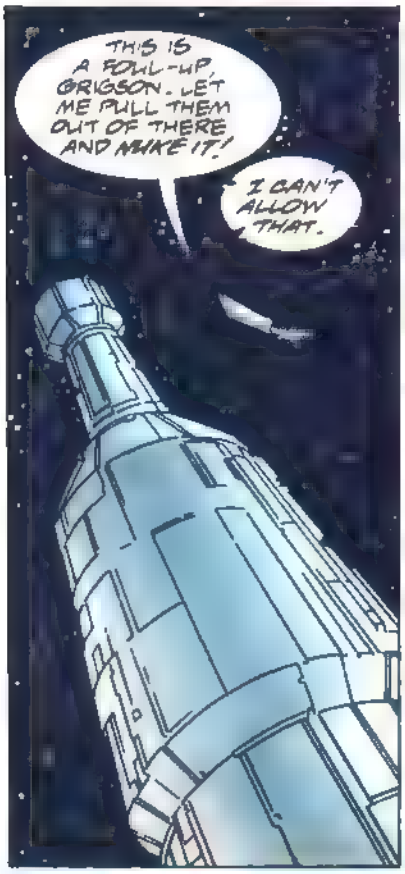


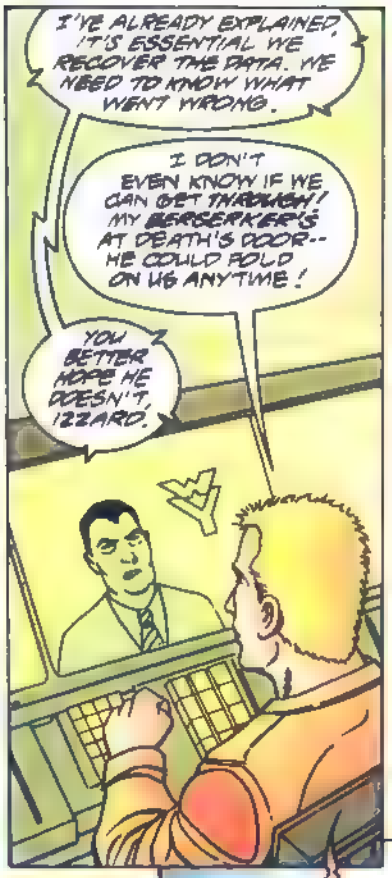

IT'S BEEN CUT!


SKKRRTTTT-T

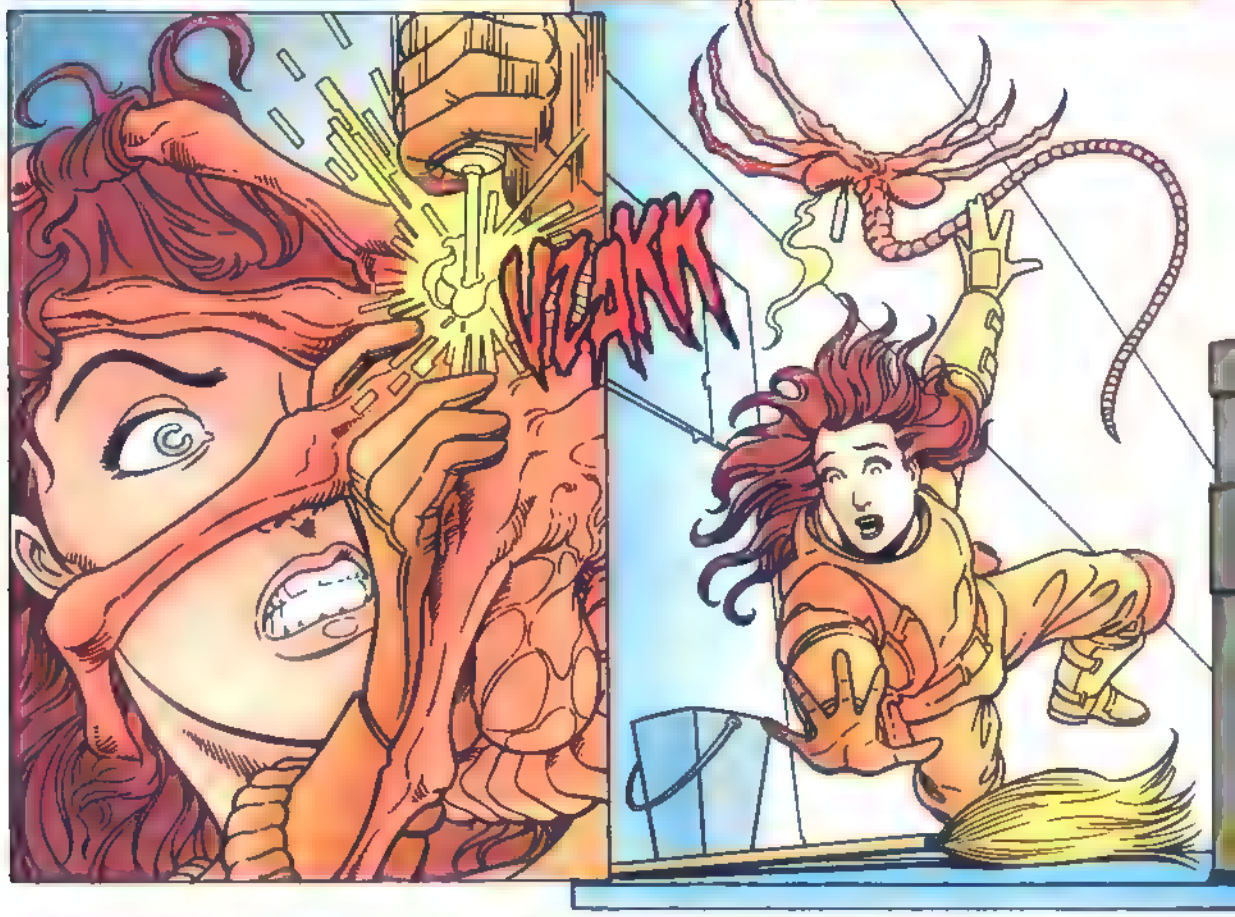
IT DON'T TAKE LONG FOR WORD ABOUT US TO GET 'ROUND!
FUDDA FUDDA
DON'T TELL ME IT'S GETTIN' TOO HOT EVEN FOR YOU, PULASKI!
THWUPPA SPATTA
UHHH!
SPATTA
CANDY MAN!
FUDDA FUDDA

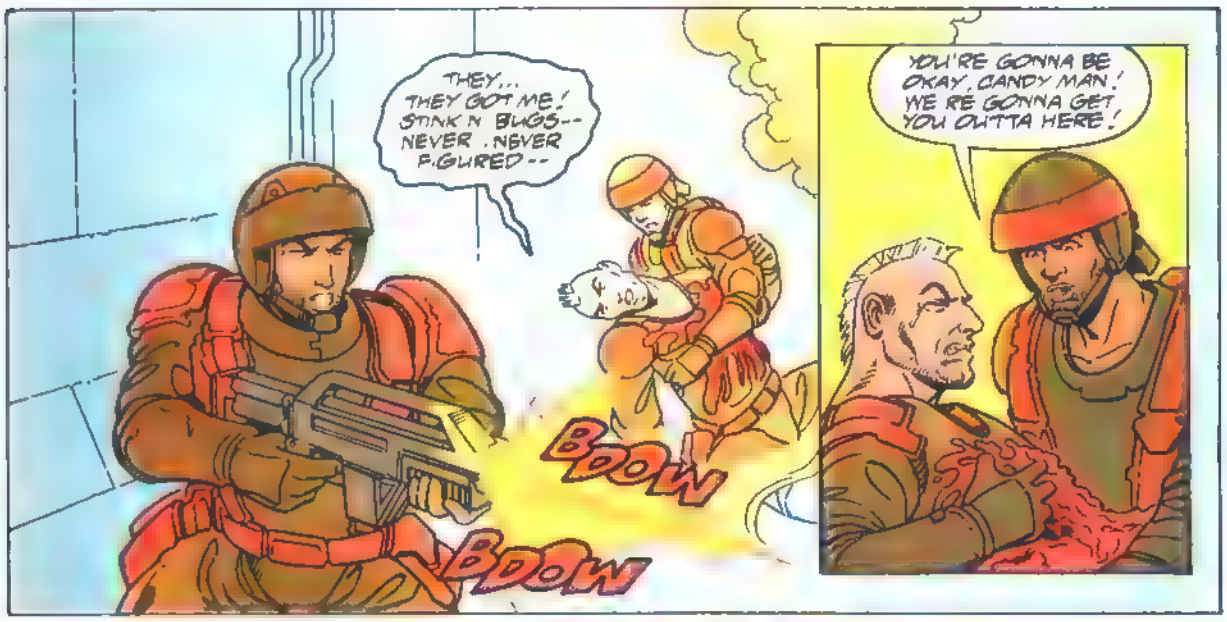
VZZTT
THERE, THAT OUGHT TO--
HHUH--?
OH, MY GOD--!
UHH!
NO--!

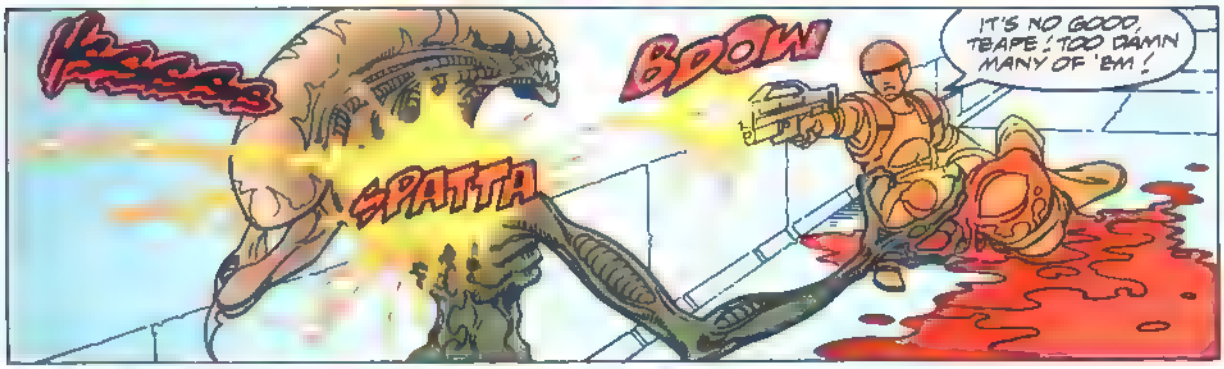

THIS IS A FOUL-UP, GRIGSON. LET ME PULL THEM OUT OF THERE AND MAKE IT!
I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.

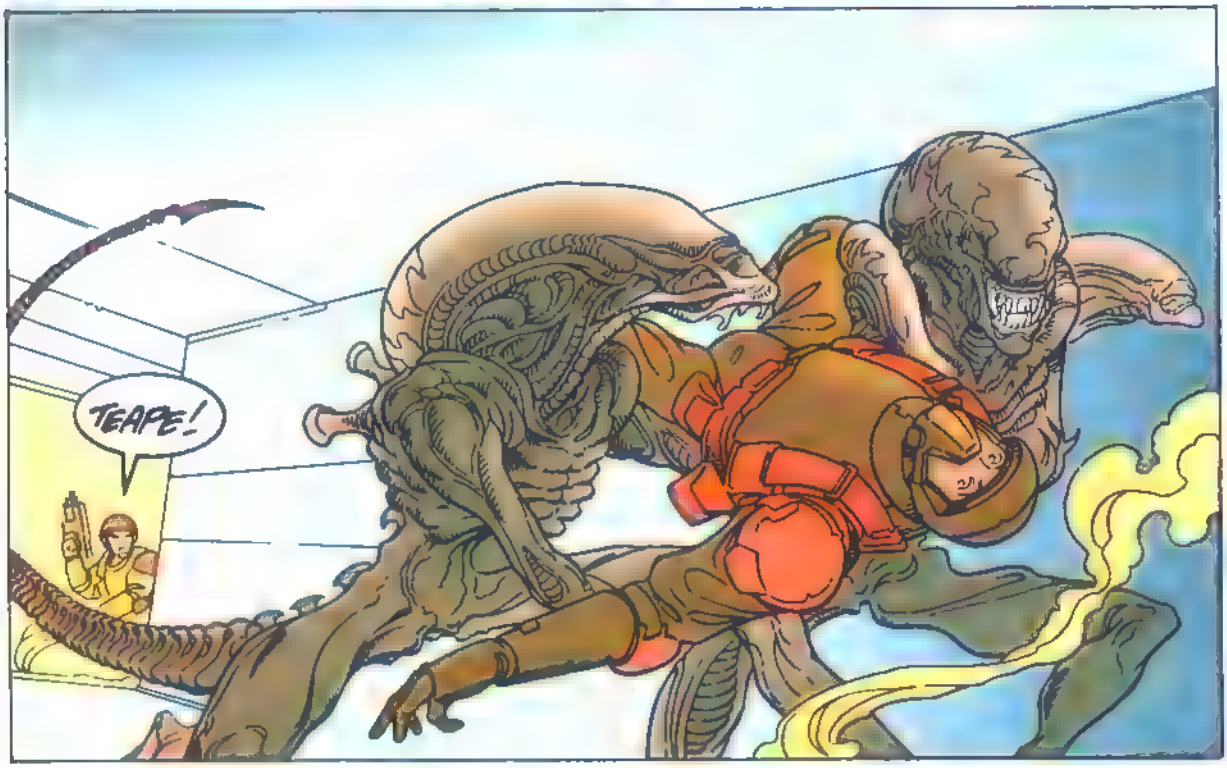

I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED, IT'S ESSENTIAL WE RECOVER THE DATA. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WENT WRONG.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE CAN GET THROUGH! MY BERSERKER'S AT DEATH'S DOOR-- HE COULD FOLD ON US ANYTIME!
YOU BETTER HOPE HE DOESN'T, IZZARD.

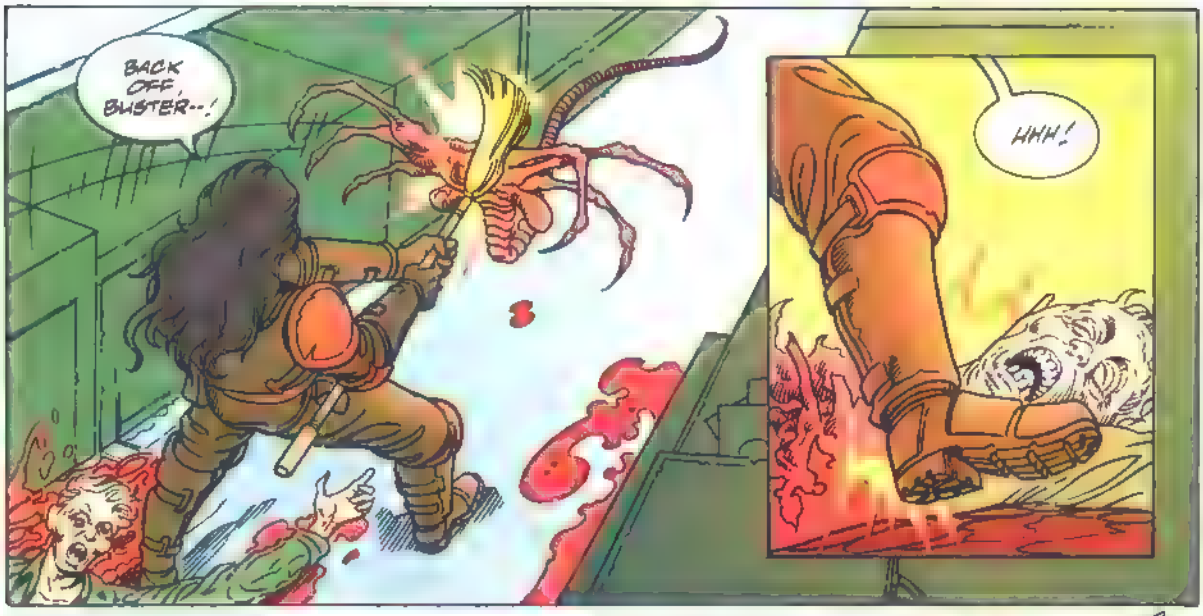
REMEMBER, IN THE END WE'RE ALL EXPENDABLE.

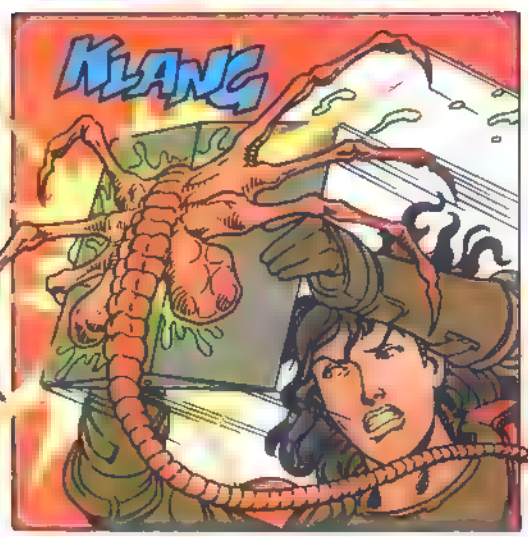

VLAKK

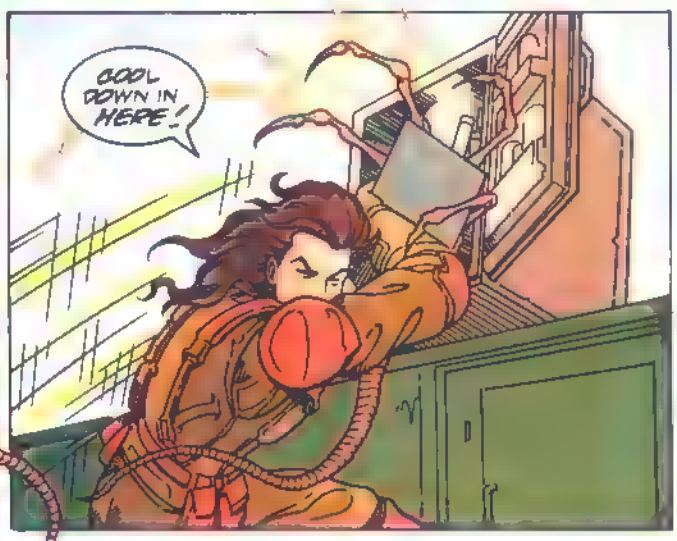

THEY... THEY GOT ME! STINK'N BUGS-- NEVER NEVER FIGURED--
YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY, CANDY MAN! WE'RE GONNA GET YOU OUTTA HERE!
BDOW
BDOW


HSSSSS
BDOW
SPATTA
IT'S NO GOOD, TEAPE! TOO DAMN MANY OF 'EM!


TEAPE!

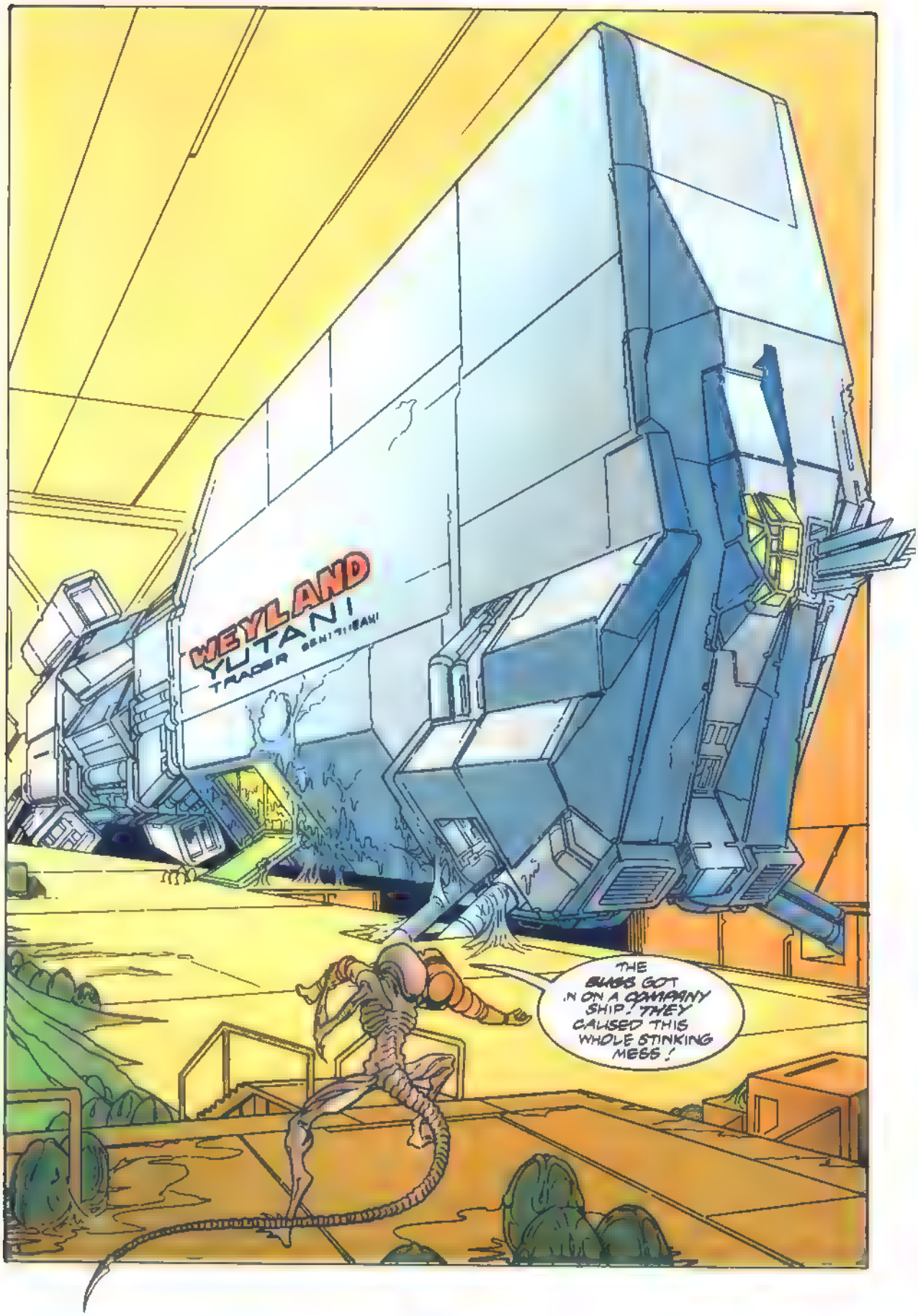

BACK OFF, BUSTER--!
HHH!

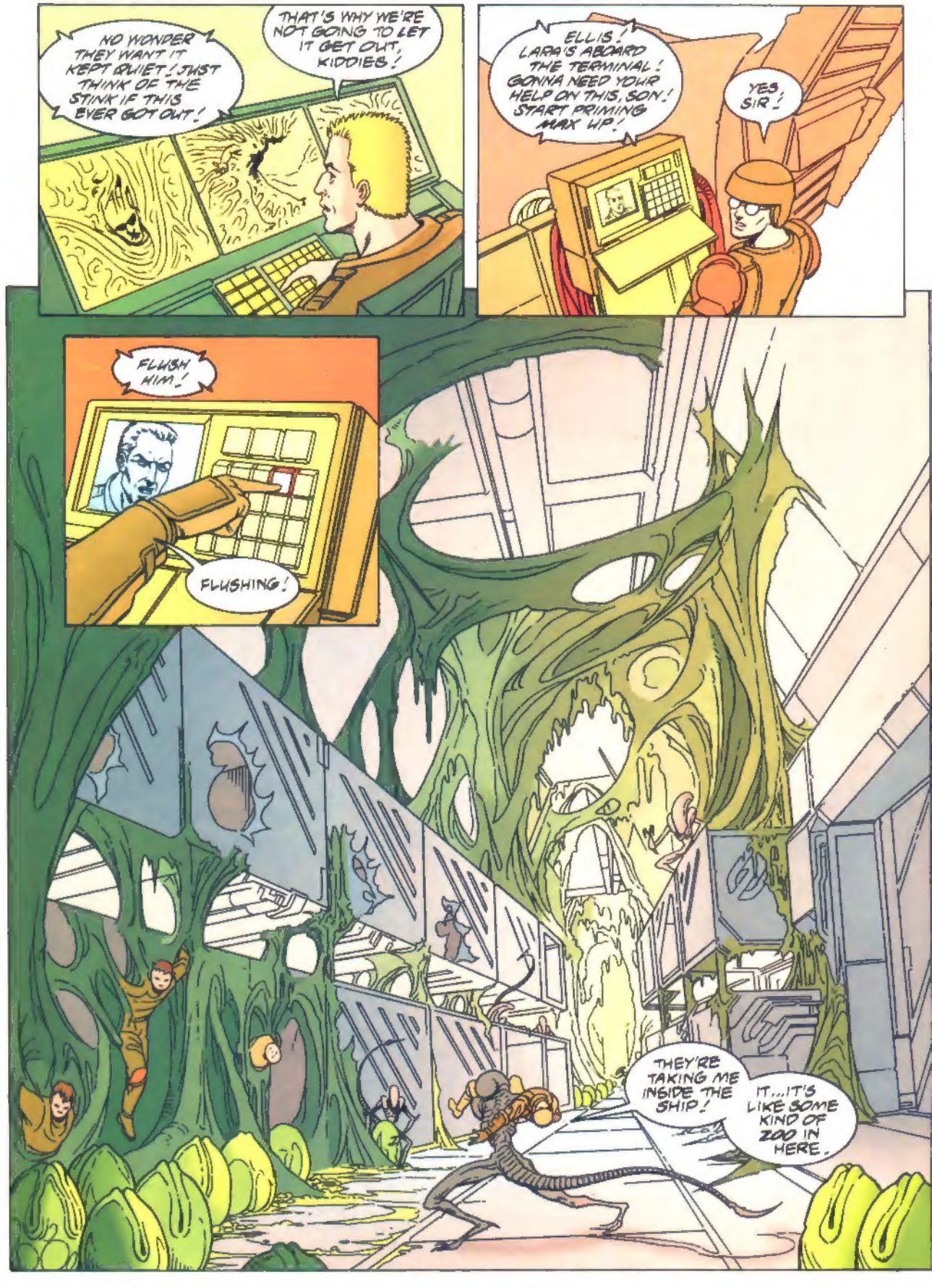

KLANG

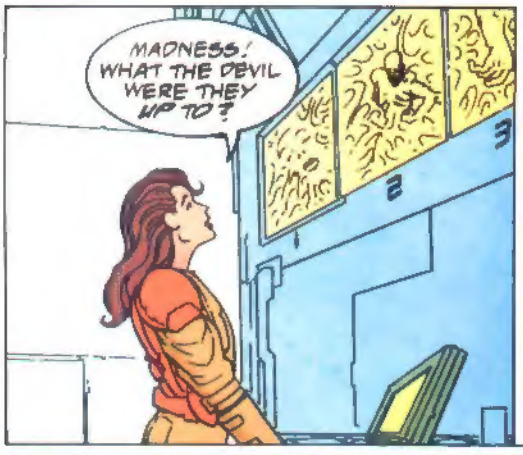

COOL DOWN IN HERE!

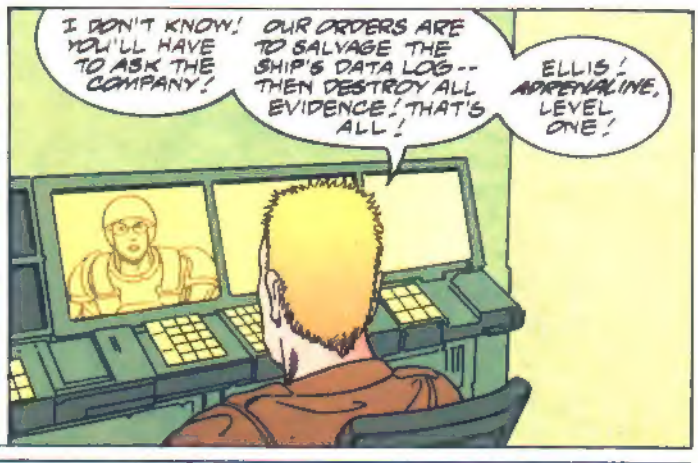
SNIK
FSSS
GRRR
ELLIS! THEY GOT ME!
START REVVIN' UP MAX!
DON'T LET ME DOWN, KID--

--I DON'T WANT TO DIE LIKE THIS!
RELAY NOW OPERATIVE! YOU'RE BACK ON LINE!
GOOD WORK, LARA!
GROUND LEADER, ARE YOU RECEIVING ME? REPORT!
PULASKI'S HURT BAD, POP! TEAPE'S GONE! THEY'RE TAKING HIM TO THE HIVE!
FUMM
FUMM
TEAPE! REPORT!
I HOPE YOU'RE ALL GETTING A GOOD LOOK AT THIS!
AIR
NOW YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE RISKING OUR NECKS!
WEYLAND YUTANI TRADER--!
WEY


WEYLAND
YUTANI
TRADER
THE BUGS GOT IN ON A COMPANY SHIP! THEY CAUSED THIS WHOLE STINKING MESS!

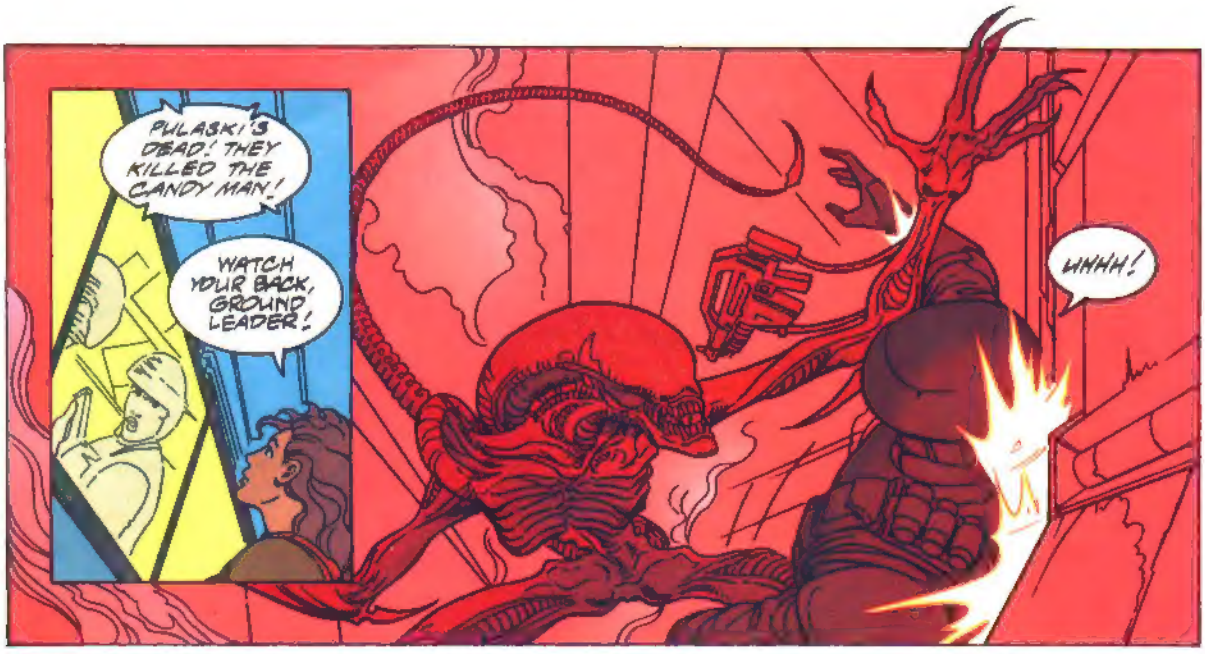

NO WONDER THEY WANT IT KEPT QUIET! JUST THINK OF THE STINK IF THIS EVER GOT OUT!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET IT GET OUT, KIDDIES!
ELLIS! LARA'S ABOARD THE TERMINAL! GONNA NEED YOUR HELP ON THIS, SON! START PRIMING MAX UP!
YES, SIR!
FLUSH HIM!
FLUSHING!
THEY'RE TAKING ME INSIDE THE SHIP!
IT...IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF ZOO IN HERE.

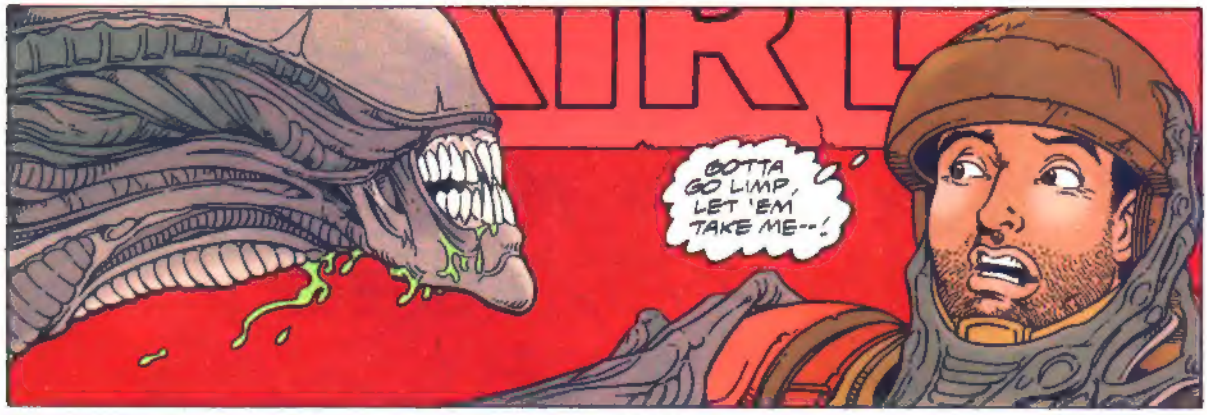


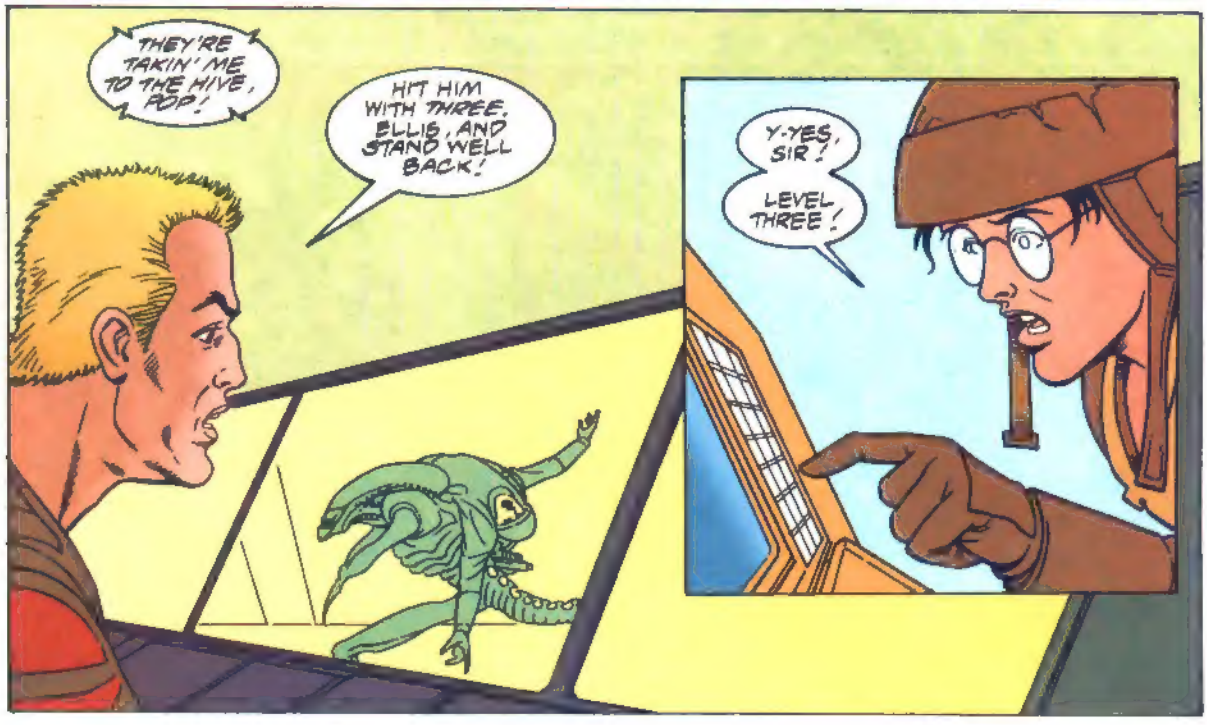


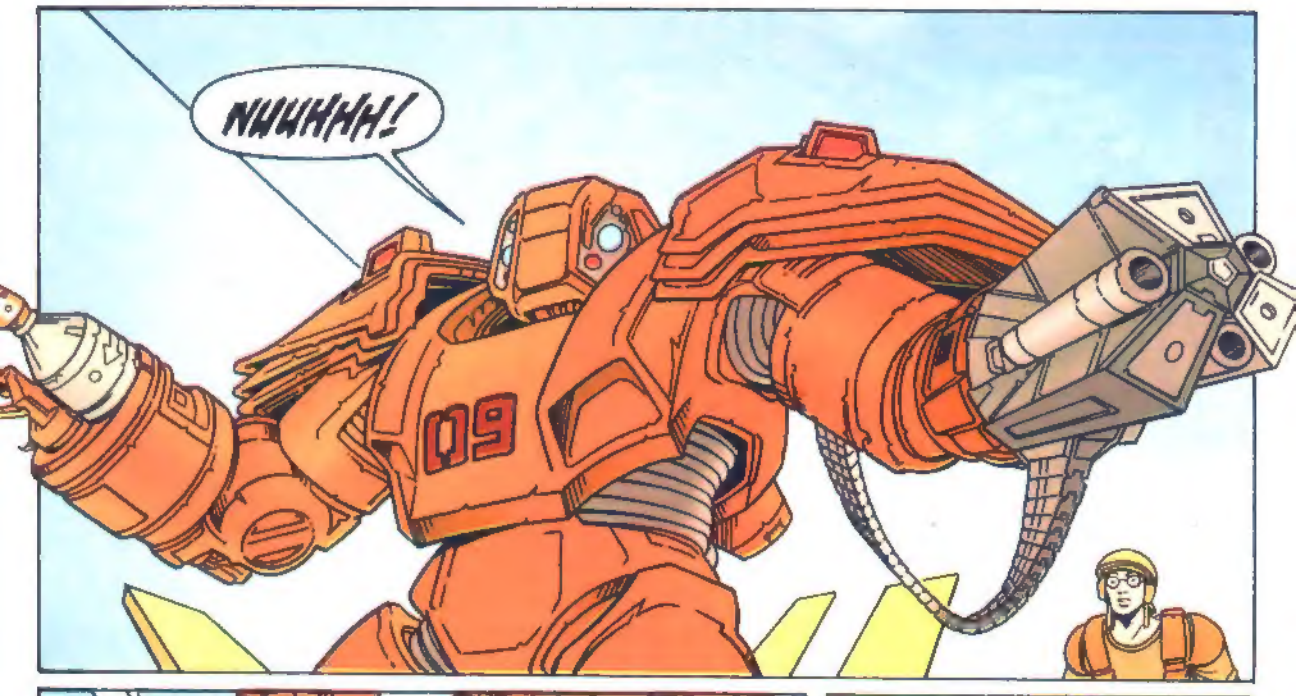
YOU HEAR THAT, CANDY MAN? YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST THE STINKIN' COMPANY!

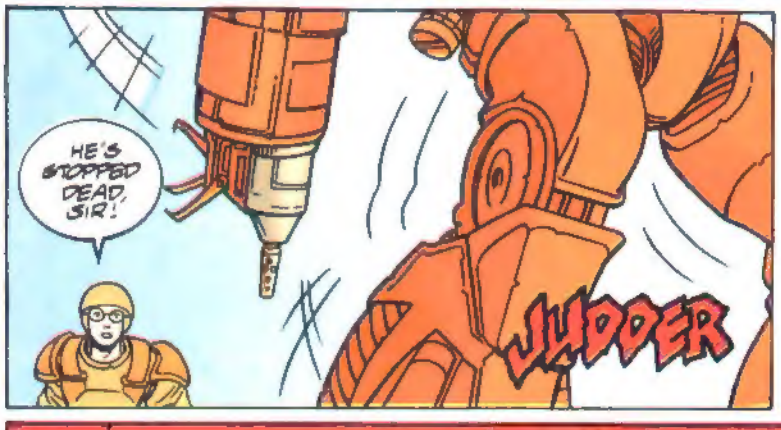
CANDY MAN!

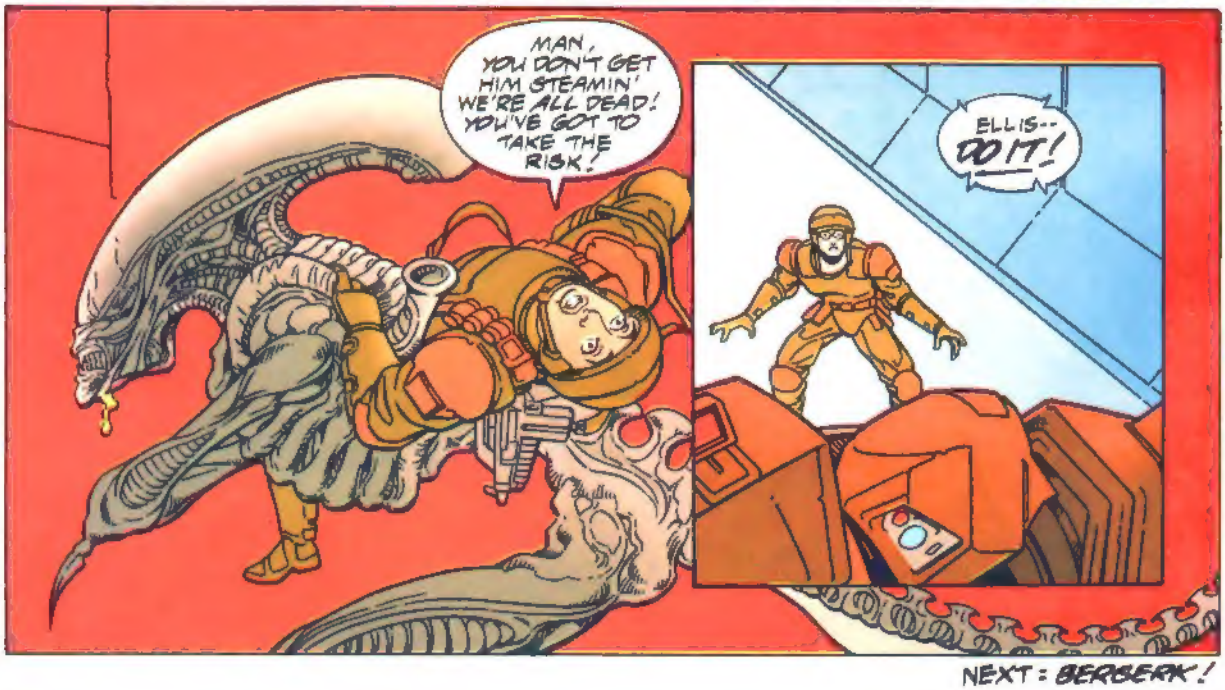

PULASKI'S DEAD! THEY KILLED THE CANDY MAN!
WATCH YOUR BACK, GROUND LEADER!
UNHH!


GOTTA GO LIMP, LET 'EM TAKE ME--!


THEY'RE TAKIN' ME TO THE HIVE, POP!
HIT HIM WITH THREE, ELLIS, AND STAND WELL BACK!
Y-YES, SIR!
LEVEL THREE!







NEXT: BERSERK!